

**REMARKS**

Claims 17-23 and 26 are pending in the application. Claims 24, 25 and 27 have been cancelled by this Amendment.

In Paper No. 12, the Examiner has stated that claims 17-23 and 26, the only claims presently pending, are allowable. In view of the cancellation of claims 24, 25 and 27, it is submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are no longer applicable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

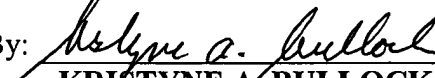
The pending application contains claims 17-23 and 26, which the Examiner has already stated are allowable. Accordingly, entrance of this After Final Amendment is requested as it places the application in a form for immediate allowance. Allowance of the claims at the earliest opportunity is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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~~2105~~ 19 December 2003  
(Date)

By:

  
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